Gauge Conversion of Quilon-Shenkottai Virudhu Nagar

2097. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) at which stage the gauge conversion of Quilon-Shenkottai Virudhu Nagar stands at present;

(b) by when, the entire process is likely to be completed;

(c) whether Government would consider to commence the work from the end of Quilon;

(d) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) On Virudunagar-Tenkasi and Tirunelveli-Trichendur bridge work and earthwork have been taken up. Final location survey in the ghat section between Quilon and Tenkasi has been recently completed. Preparation of plans and estimate have been taken up.

(b) No target date has been fixed for completion of this project.

(c) and (d) The long lead items such as land acquisition construction of major and minor bridges and earthwork will be taken up depending upon the availability of resources.

Inferior Quality Meals in Railway Canteens and Trains

†2098. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the canteens run by the Railways at North Avenue and South Avenue, New Delhi, as well as in the Shramjeevi and Lichhvi Express trains, serve inferior quality meals and breakfasts to MP's their guests and passengers, which is not commensurate with their price :

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps being taken to upgrade quality in the two canteens in Delhi as well as in both the above trains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) and (b) Railway manages catering services in North

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.